University Missourian

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LETTERS THAT KILL.

The letters around which the recent political storm gathered, though unique in character, are not the first in the history of the country that have spelled political doom for those concerned. Usually these letters of direful import have contained attacks on public men, which have redounded to the detriment of the writer, or they have expressed opinions on some policy or principle in such a way as to rob the author of the people's trust. To the first class belongs Hamilton's arraignment of Adams, which was the probable cause of Jefferson's election, and also his attacks on Burr, which resulted in his death at the hands of Burr. Jefferson's letter to his friend Mazzei, by its implication of Washington and other men, kept its author more or less "in not water" all the rest of his life. After twenty-eight years we find him writing to Van Buren on the subject.

A letter brought on the strife between Jackson and Calhoun with which the latter ceased to be a national figure in politics. It was also a letter, written by Nicholas Biddle, that enabled Jackson virtually to break the United States Bank of which Biddle was president. More recent examples are the Sackville-West and the Canalejas letters, in the latter of which, by the too vigorous expression of his opinions of the late President McKinley, De Lome caused a temporary straining of the relations between his country and the United States.

Of the letters of the second class, those written by overnor Hutchinson of Massachusetts before the American Revolution, are prominent examples. They encouraged England's harsh treatment of the colonies. Upon their publication, the Governor was forced to leave the colony and Franklin, who was instrumental in their publication, lost favor in England, a fact which probably caused him to cease trying to effect a reconciliation and to begin working towards the independence of the colonies.

Van Buren, who said that he would rather walk forty miles to tell a person something than to express his thoughts in a letter, was defeated by Polk in the race for the presidential nomination solely because of a letter that he had written. His mistake was in taking too lukewarm a stand on the Texas annexation question. In the following election, Clay's defeat was almost certainly due to the publication of a letter in which he made a surrender on the question of slavery. His defeat occasioned the remark of Meredith P. Gentry that "the chief qualification which I shall require of Whig presidential candidate hereafter is that he shall be able to neither read nor write."

TAXATION OF INHERITANCES.

The taxation of inheritances is a fair and just method of raising revenue. The state, by its laws, becomes the agent to deliver property which has been bequeathed by one person to another. Except for the state's permission and assistance the property could not be given or received. The state not only acts as agent but by its laws directs where and how the wealth of the deceased shall go. There is no natural right to receive inheritances. The state confers the privilege and carries it into effect. An inheritance is merely the transfer fee, the agent's commission. Such a tax affords a means of reaching for taxation purposes wealth which can not be reached in any other way. Large estates pay the inheritance tax as well as small estates. The large estate is usually that of a wealthy tax-dodger who in his lifetime paid taxes only upon an inconsiderable part of his wealth. Before his estates can legally pass into the possession of his heirs it must pay an inheritance tax, which compensates in part for previous non-taxation.

Nearly every country in the world has the inheritance tax in some form. Great Britain has for years received a large share of its revenue from this source. Three-fourths of the states of the United States raise revenue by taxation of inheritances. It is a simple, direct and fair method of supporting the state and falls as a burden upon persons who are most able to bear it. Small inheritances are sometimes exempt from taxation, while in other case all inheritances are taxed.

In most states the tax is on all inheritances. In Missouri it is only upon collateral inheritances, that is those to persons not in the direct line of descent, parents, children or grandchildren. This tax goes into the state treasury as any other tax and is appropriated by the General Assembly as any other tax. It affects less than one per cent of the population of Missouri and three-fourths of the amount comes from the cities of St. Louis and Kansas City.

CLAIMING EVERYTHING.

The policy of the political leaders of claiming for their own party things that are disputed, as the vote of certain states, is, to say the least, a rather questionable one. The reason for this claiming is probably that the leaders of the different parties hope to influence doubtful voters in this manner and thus to boom their candidates. These doubtful voters wish to vote for the man who is going to win, and will always vote against the man who has the least chance of being elected. They want to get in the band wagon, as the political boomers term it.

Now this policy may be perfectly legitimate; but it savors of dishonesty. It is on the same principle as that of a merchant claiming qualities for his goods which they do not possess. It is the policy, it is true, of everyone in the modern business world to boom everything of interest to him; but in politics it is different. There the interests of many people are involved; and when political leaders claim for their party that which it does not possess merely for the sake of booming their candidate, it is carrying the booming policy too far. Getting on the band wagon and going with the crowd is a good idea sometimes; but there is an old saying that says not to get on the band wagon if you can't blow a horn, and voters should not get on the political wagon if they do not know what the party stands for. Advertising a party and candidate is necessary in this age of promiscuous advertising; but the policy of the leaders of present day political parties of wholesale claiming is not only unnecessary, but altogether the wrong one.

VIEWPOINT OF THE STUDENTS

(The University Missourian invites communications from students touching on questions of general interest in the University. Letters are limited to 200 words. Address The University Missourian, or drop communication in box in Academic Hall corridor.)

How About Exposition Trip.

To the Editor of the University Missourian:

The Seattle Exposition will not open until July 1. If we military men get to take the trip would we drill during June, or go home and then come back, or take the trip the first of next September? This may seem rather early for such a question, but it is important to those of us who must make every cent possible during vacation in order to come back next year. A. B.

'Rah For The Irish.

To the Editor of the University Missourian:

Why not hold a meeting of the Irish some Friday night after mass meeting just to count noses? It would be interesting to see what proportion of the students of each department are of Celtic blood. A banquet or picnic held by Irish students would be the liveliest, wittiest, and jolliest of any ever celebrated in this old college town. R.

Columbia Sidewalks.

To the Editor of the University Missourian:

Residents of Columbia suffer unwarranted inconvenience, and visitors get an uncomplimentary impression of the town, from the unsightly condition of the sidewalk along the north side of Broadway west of Hitt street. It has been in that condition ever since Broadway was paved—littered with brick, stone and refuse. It was especially noticeable yesterday, when crowds passed along that side of Broadway. Can't it be remedied?

About Summer Athletics.

To the Editor of the University Missourian:

During the past few years there has been a great revolution in the world of college athletics. The college authorities have ruled out of intercollegiate athletics persons who have professionalized themselves along an athletic line. But on the other hand nothing has been done along the line of the debaters and singers, who during the summers and while they are in school "stump the state" and sing in church choirs and receive a compensation for their ability. They are allowed to represent their college in open contest against some other institution of learning.

This being the case, why not allow the athlete to earn a few dollars during his vacation; and then be allowed to represent his college on the athletic field? X.

If a "University Co-ed," who has written a communication for this column, will send her name to the Missourian, the letter will be published. The name will not be published except with the consent of the correspondent.

SHOULD A BOY GO TO COLLEGE?

COLLEGE life is a bigger factor in the question than the college course. The college course is a part of college life, and an important part; but it is only a part, and this fact should be recognized. For after all, the college life as a whole is what makes or unmakes the boys who are in the midst of it for four impressionable years. Or rather, it is the attitude of the boy toward the college life about him that usually determines his future. One's environment never is the supreme factor; what one does with one's environment settles the case.

So the question to answer is really this: Should a boy have college life for four years? And that question can no more be answered than the question, "What kind of woman should a man marry?" It is necessary to know your man; and it is necessary to know your boy. However, it is possible to answer intelligently the question, "Shall my boy have four years of college life?" or, if the boy himself is to decide the matter, "Shall I enter upon four years of college life?"

A general truth that it would seem safe to assume, in considering the bearing of this question upon any particular boy, is that college life does not transform, but it develops, those who are in the midst of it. The reason for this is that almost any boy will find, in college, strong inducements to give full swing to his chief tendencies or ambitions, no matter what they are. If he is a student, there is plenty of stimulus to the development of student habits and scholarly achievement. If he is socially inclined, there is social life in full measure, inviting him to give that his chief attention. The athletically inclined of the young generation need not to be told where they can get athletic encouragement likely to satisfy the most extreme. The youth who longs to get out from under parental sight into a life where he can sample wild oats to the full, having no questions asked when he comes in late of nights, finds that college life flings the door wide open for this, and that there is no lack of companions to go to the limit with him, or to show him how to go farther than he would ever have learned alone.

For the boy whose Christian ideals are high and clean, whose mother has thrilled his boyish heart with true stories of character heroism in the fellows of father's day, when a chap who wore the blue, or the crimson, or the orange and black, stood out single-handed against his whole class for what he believed was right until by sheer force of manhood he broke down their opposition to him and they cheered him to the echo and honored him as one who was made of better stuff than they—that boy will find, to his surprise perhaps, that Christian character is at a premium today among college men; that it is no longer "bad form" to be a Christian (it was actually said to be considered so in a well-known eastern college about the time that the writer was an undergraduate); that the leading men in fraternities, eating clubs, athletic teams, musical organizations, and scholarship, are as likely as not to be the leaders in the religious activities of the college; that there is large opportunity for thorough-going Bible study and organized Christian work; and that college Christianity is Christianity at its best and truest, because college life is such a merciless enemy to sham and insincerity and lukewarmness of any sort. He will find that the spirit of such masculine Christianity as Mott and Speer stand for is inspiring and controlling the best that is in college life, and that that best is a larger part of college life today than ever before, and growing larger every year. He will find, in some colleges, that a choice group of the undergraduates is keenly interested in home and foreign missions, some supporting and conducting city settlement work, others with their own missionary institutions, bearing the college name and waving the college colors, in the foreign field.

All this, college life offers in the way of opportunity to develop one's better or one's worse side. There are boys who leave college a great deal lower down in the scale of manhood and character than when they entered, and who would have been the gainers by the pressure of rigid business life and discipline, with less freedom until they were older. They have chosen to let the temptations of college life develop their worst tendencies. There are many others—probably a large majority—who have been helped by the higher impulse of college life to develop their brains and wills in the right direction, and who therefore are immeasurably the gainers by that mental discipline which only a college curriculum can offer, as well as by the culture and breadth which the fellowship of undergraduate life produces.

A boy ought to be able to go to college—if he is free to choose either way—and come out a stronger man in body, mind, and spirit, better equipped in every way for a life of usefulness, than he would be at the same age without the college experience. That is what college is for; and the record of college men as a body abundantly shows that college life is fulfilling its mission in our country.

College is a place to learn how to learn, and how to live. It is simply a preparatory course in life. What one acquires of actual information in college is comparatively slight and unimportant; what one learns as to how to study, how to use his mind, how to get at facts, and how to live servicefully with his fellows, is of tremendous importance. This training the college as an institution can give, in less time and in a manner better compacted and systematized for use throughout life, than is possible outside the college campus.—Charles Gallaudet Trumbull, in Forward.

THANKS!

G. W. Hallowell, assistant business manager of the Harvard Crimson, writes:

"You certainly show enterprise in publishing a daily, and the Crimson would be glad to exchange copies with you throughout the year 1908-1909. We trust we may have the pleasure of regularly seeing your efforts in print."

E. S. Pennebraker, circulation manager of the Daily Illini, of Illinois University, writes:

"We are glad to place your paper on our exchange list. The Missourian seems to be quite a new departure in the field of college journalism and is one of the newsiest sheets on our exchange table. Keep it up."

R. B. Caldwell, lawyer, of Kansas City, writes:

"I have enjoyed reading the paper—it is a step in the right direction."

FRENCH VIEW OF OUR GIRLS

THE French public has just made the acquaintance of Mrs. Wharton's Lily Bart. They are now surer than ever that in America life means the making of money by the men and the spending of it by the women. What are the ordinary American girl's ambitions? M. Jules Clairetie knows. He found it out from a young friend, who is professor of French, presumably in a woman's college in the "heart" of Illinois. M. Clairetie imparts his newly acquired information through the columns of the Paris Temps: "Among the lovely flock which this young shepherd was supposed to guide in the ways of culture, formosi pecoris custos, most of the American races were represented. These young women bore names poetically Americanized: Melita, Priscilla, Mabel, Jessica, Phoebe, Minerva, Rosamonde, Florinda, Myrtis, Jessamine, Sylvia, Imogene, etc. I could not mention all of them, nor speak of those who were simply called Annie, Maud, Eleanor, Lillian, Beatrice or Margaret. They came from all the countries of the new world. Some were born on the gray slopes of the Rocky Mountains; some on the verdant banks of the Great Lakes; others had grown up, like Atala, under the hoary shade of giant cedars or magnolias, by the mighty rivers, within the sound of thundering cataracts. But all had just one aim in life, if we may judge from their replies to questions put by the professor at odd moments:

"'Miss Melita,' asked my friend of a young woman from Florida, 'what are you planning to do when you leave college?'

"'I am going to be a society girl.'

"'And you, Miss Priscilla?'

"'Society girl.'

"'You, Jessamine?'

"'Society girl.'

"'You, Imogene?'

"'Society girl.'

"And so on."—New York Evening Post.

WHEN YOU'RE GONE.

Aint no use to try to smile,
When you're gone.
Troubles, they just seem to pile,
'Thout you song—
For the heart-aches and the fears
No one understands or Keers,
And the minutes and the years
Seem so long.

Jest a wishin' all the day
When you're gone.
Jest a wishin' time away
Mebbe wrong.
But I seem so out of place
When I miss your smillin' face,
All this World is commonplace
'Till you come.

Oh, they hurt—these lonesome hours,
When you're gone.
Aint no joy among the flowers
'Thout you, long.
When they nod before the wind
Seems jest like they's whisperin'
Wonderin' when you'll come agin
With your song.

—H. L. WOOD.

66 Now Studying Journalism.

D. E. Dexter, of Joplin, enrolled today as a student in the Department of Journalism. He is the sixty-sixth student to enroll in the Department.

MAN MUST BE HIPLESS, TOO, FASHION DECREES

Worship of the Waist Line is the Keynote of Masculine Styles This Fall—Reversal to Types of Early '50s.

For the autumn of 1908 a new sartorial standard has been set. The tailors contend that their patrons have gradually been leaning toward the styles of the early '50s, which connoisseurs select as the ideal combination of comfort and beauty. For the past year the styles have shifted in this direction,, and this winter the adoption of more pronounced clothes is predicted.

This will mean the worship of the waist line. It means that men will emphasize the line of the back, and a decided movement will be made to produce a full-chested hipless, slender figure.

Overcoats for the winter will show a distinct waist line, and they will be of moderate length. For town wear, blacks and Oxford grays are in chief demand. Fur-lined overcoats are a staple for night wear, but owing to the general use of inferior coats of this nature, many men will leave their mink and sable-lined garments in their closets and will wear smart new silk-lined coats for the opera.

Fancy Collars; Patch Pocket.

Traveling and storm coats are used in brighter and more pronounced colorings. The widest latitude is possible with these, as well as motoring coats, and striking collars, fancy cuffs and patch pockets are permissible.

The sack suit is primarily the mainstay of the American man's collection of clothes. The three-button sack, with a definite waist line, will be made in great numbers. These coats depend entirely upon the subtle quality of the cutting, and at the waist there will be a discreet flare or "draped" effect, more pronounced than in recent years. This draping will creep into many of the season's best attempts. The sleeve, at the shoulder will have a bit of draping.

Most men wear belts these days, and the trousers are made accordingly. In many attires the waistcoat will appear above the opening of the coat. The opening is usually low, but not extreme, and the notched lapels are not rolling. The collarless waistcoats will be cut with points at the bottom, but with little studding of buttons. The waistcoats will help to develop the waist line and with well-dressed men they are cinched tightly.

The Tattersall waistcoat and fancy effects in French flannel and Irish linen are popular. For sack suits, greens will be exceedingly well liked. Black worsteds with a fine black line, slate grays and dull and grayish blues are used in great numbers. There is a falling off in browns, as only men with high colors can wear the trying tones. In these imported cheviots and unfinished worsteds, stripes predominate, but the standard checks are still in use as staples.

Bell Hats; Varnished Shoes.

A new note is struck in the silk hats for the winter of 1908-09. These are high of crown, with a subdued "bell" shape and an inconspicuous brim. This shape was made originally for King Edward VII.

Shoes fall in with the present tendency of elegance, and smart men will have their boots varnished. The shape is rounded and they are either buttoned or fastened with leather laces. Even low shoes are better with leather than silk laces. High shoes should be buttoned for formal wear, or even for the well-groomed man in the sack suit. Many of the best shoes show an exaggeratedly long tongue.

Shirts do not differ from previous years. Striped patterns are used, but the well-dressed man will avoid concerted efforts to have ties, shirts and socks harmonize absolutely. Intense color schemes are always to be avoided, and studied ease is necessarily the desirable underlying thought. In a matter of ties and shirts, the discretion of the individual cannot wander if he patronizes one of the better shops.

The derby hat will hold its own, with each man wearing the most becoming block. For knockabout wear a soft hat will be worn, and the many men who cling to green hats, despite the avalanche of domestic imitations, preclude the statement that the Tyrolese headgear is impossible. From Vienna comes a new hat, a golden brown beaver, as beautiful as the other hats and apt to be affected by many men. These hats have a falcon's talon or a bird's feather set in the middle of the bow behind.

WHO'S WHO OF THE CANDIDATES

BRYAN, WILLIAM JENNINGS—Democratic nominee for President; born Salem, Ill., March 19, 1860; graduated at Illinois College, 1881; member Congress 1891-5; Democratic nominee for President 1896 and 1900; author and publisher; editor the Commoner.

CHAFIN, EUGENE W.—Prohibition nominee for President; born East Troy, Wis., November 1, 1852; law graduate University of Wisconsin; Prohibition candidate for Congress 1882 and 1902; in recent years organizer of temperance work; home, Chicago.

DEBS, EUGENE V.—Socialist nominee for President; born Terre Haute, Ind., November 5, 1855; common school education; locomotive fireman, salesman and city clerk; president American Railway union 1893-97; while managing strike on Western railroads in 1894 was sent to jail for six months for contempt of court; Social Democrat party nominee for President 1904.

GRAVES, JOHN TEMPLE—Independence nominee for Vice President; born Willington Church, Abbeville county, South Carolina; graduate University of Georgia, 1875; orator, journalist and author; editor New York American.

HANFORD, BENJAMIN—Socialist nominee for Vice President; speaker and organizer; twenty-eight years member Typographical union; nominee of same party for Vice President, 1904.

HISGEN, THOMAS L.—Independence nominee for President; born Petersburg, Ind., November 26, 1858; partner of Four Brothers Oil company; candidate governor Massachusetts 1907, polling more votes than the Democratic nominee.

KERN, JOHN W.—Democratic nominee for Vice President; born Howard county, Indiana, December 20, 1849; graduated University of Michigan, 1869; state senator 1892-6; candidate for governor of Indiana 1900, 1904; lawyer.

SHERMAN, JAMES SCHOOLCRAFT—Republican nominee for Vice President; born Utica, N. Y., October 24, 1855; was graduated Hamilton college 1878; to bar 1880; member Congress 1887-91, 1893-1903 and 1903-9; member rules committee.

TAFT, WILLIAM HOWARD—Republican nominee for President; born Cincinnati, September 15, 1857; was graduated from Yale 1878; solicitor general 1890-92; circuit judge 1892-1900; governor general Philippines 1900-04; Secretary of War 1904-08.

WATKINS, AARON S.—Prohibition nominee for Vice President; born Logan county, Ohio, November 29, 1863; professor of literature at Ohio Northern University.

WATSON, THOMAS E.—People's party nominee for President; born Columbia county, Georgia, September 5, 1856; two years in Mercer college; Populist member Congress 1891-3; previous nominee People's party Vice President 1896; President 1904; author, publisher and lawyer, chief works, "Story of France," "Napoleon," "Life of Thomas Jefferson."

WILLIAMS, SAMUEL W.—People's party nominee for Vice President; lives at Vincennes, Ind.; long a leading Populist.

OUR FILTHY LUCRE

TENS of thousands of begrimed and germ-fraught bills are being systematically dumped by the United States Treasury into the West and Southwest, while the new currency issued is reserved for the East.

The result today is that throughout about twenty of the greatest states of the country a man cannot get paper money in exchange, say for a $5 bill, without receiving on an average two or three bills so crumpled, so smeared with dirt and so populous with bacteria imparted by the hundreds of hands through which they have passed, as not only to offend the sense of smell, but to seriously imperil health. In the great cities of the East, however, it is rare to receive currency that is not comparatively fresh from the Treasury's printing office.

According to physicians, paper money is one of the most favorable agents for the propagation and distribution of disease germs. The travels of a dollar bill in the West, where it is often in circulation for years before it is retired, would cause one, if they were known, to shrink from it in disgust and alarm.

It passed first, perhaps, into the hands of a butcher, who made his contribution to its future filthiness by giving it a smear with his blood-stained hands, affording a rich soil for bacteria. Next it may have entered and remained for some time in a home infected with diphtheria, where a flourishing colony of the germs of the disease was acquired.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.